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General Assembly

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A/C.2/52/L.2
22 October 1997

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Fifty-second session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95 (a)

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING NET TRANSFER OF RESOURCES BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Convening of an international conference on the financing of development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/205 of 20 December 1991, 48/187 of 21 December 1993 and 50/93 of 20 December 1995, and relevant resolutions, in which it decided, inter alia, to consider at its fifty-second session the convening of an international conference on the financing of development,

Recalling also an agenda for development,[1] in particular paragraph 297, where it is stated that due consideration should be given to modalities for conducting an intergovernmental dialogue on the financing of development,

Taking into account the recommendations in this regard, as contained in the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] See document A/AC.250/1 (Parts I, II and III), annex.

[2] A/49/665.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on sources for the financing of development,[3]

Reaffirming its resolutions 50/91 of 20 December 1995, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 51/166 of 16 December 1996, as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/43, on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions,

Taking note of the communiqué of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-four on International Monetary Affairs[4] of 20 September 1997,

Expressing the urgent need to undertake a thorough evaluation of the nature of the international financial institutions and their role in the financing of development in the contemporary globalizing world economy,

Noting with deep concern the continuous decline of the official development assistance flows to developing countries,

Noting that for many developing countries, particularly those in Africa and the least developed countries, official development assistance remains a main source of external funding and cannot generally be replaced by private capital flows,

Taking note of the agreed conclusions 1997/1 of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1997 of the Economic and Social Council,[5]

1. Decides to convene a conference on the financing of development to be held before the year 2000 and under the auspices of the United Nations;

2. Also decides to establish an intergovernmental preparatory committee of the General Assembly to examine in depth issues relating to the financing of development, and to propose, no later than the end of the current session of the Assembly, specific dates and an agenda for the conference on the financing of development;

3. Requests the funds and programmes as well as their respective executive boards to provide support to the work of the preparatory committee;

4. Invites the participation, support and collaboration of the intergovernmental bodies of the Bretton Woods institutions, with the preparatory committee, in the launching and realization of the conference;

5. Invites the regional development banks to participate effectively in the preparatory process of the conference;

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[3] A/52/399.

[4] A/C.2/52/2, annex.

[5] See document A/52/3, chap. II, para. 5.

6. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions to provide support from their specific perspectives to the work of the preparatory committee;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, in collaboration with the Bretton Woods institutions, the necessary substantive support to the preparatory committee, including suggestions for a possible agenda, in order to enable the preparatory committee to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

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Agenda item 95 (c)

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the continuing validity of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development,[1] adopted in 1979, its resolution 50/101 of 20 December 1995, and all other relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, as well as the outcomes of United Nations major conferences concerning science and technology for development,

Taking note of the outcome of the Meeting of Experts on Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned Countries held in Cartagena, Colombia, in March 1997, in the field of biological diversity,

Recognizing the importance for developing countries of having access to science and technology so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness in the world market,

Stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how to

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

the developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, and stressing also that the transfer of technology would contribute to meeting the developing countries' obligations agreed to at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and in the relevant international conventions,

Expressing concern over the further marginalization of developing countries in the process of globalization which has resulted in increased benefits from advances in science and technology and stressing the need for Governments and international development institutions to facilitate the transfer of privately owned technologies on concessional terms to developing countries,

Noting the initiative by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to convene, in 1999, a world science conference,

Recognizing that information technologies are important requisites for planning, development and decision-making in science and technology, and recognizing also their far-reaching implications for society,

Reaffirming that the United Nations should play a central role in, and give the highest priority to, cooperation in science and technology, and in the enhancement of support and assistance to developing countries in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, and emphasizing the need to strengthen the United Nations organizations with a mandate in the field of science and technology, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Noting the work being undertaken by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its work programme for member States, especially the developing countries, and reaffirming its unique role as a global forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for the improvement of the understanding of science and technology policies and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

Expressing its profound concern over the continued inadequacy of resources for fostering science and technology for development, and the lack of political will on the part of the developed countries in fulfilling their commitments in this respect,

Recognizing the need for Governments, and regional and international bodies to take measures to ensure women better access to and participation within scientific and technological areas, especially where they are not represented or are under-represented,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on macroeconomic policy questions: science and technology for development,[2]

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[2] A/52/320.

1. Endorses Economic and Social Council decision 1997/306 of 25 July 1997, adopted at its substantive session of 1997 on the basis of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session;[3]

2. Also endorses the ongoing work of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, with the support of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, emphasizes the importance of the activities that are to be pursued within the framework of the Commission, including a broad spectrum of new global challenges in science and technology, and encourages donors to support these undertakings; and, in this regard, encourages the Commission to expand, to the extent possible, the scope of its deliberations on the theme "Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity-building" for the inter-sessional period 1997-1999;

3. Reaffirms that capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries should constitute a priority issue in the United Nations agenda, and urges that international cooperation efforts be intensified and strengthened towards developing countries' endogenous capacity-building in science and technology, including their capacity to utilize scientific and technological developments from abroad as well as to modify and adapt them to suit local conditions, with the recommendation that the United Nations should play in future an ever-increasing role in these processes and the development of a new generation of environmentally sound technologies;

4. Stresses the urgent need to strengthen the vital role of the United Nations in the field of science and technology as a cross-cutting concern within the work of the United Nations, particularly through effective policy guidance and better coordination, including international cooperation in technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting, and calls upon the organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations to work in a coordinated manner to develop a catalogue of proved technologies to enable effective choice, by developing countries, of state-of-the-art technologies;

5. Calls upon the international community, particularly developed countries and international organizations, to fulfil all their commitments as affirmed in chapter 34 of Agenda 21,[4] as well as in the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly;

6. Expresses the need for the provision of financial resources on a continuous and assured basis to the developing countries as regards their acquiring technology for development including environmentally sound technologies, in accordance with the provisions of Agenda 21, the outcome of the

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[3] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 11 (E/1997/31).

[4] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, and an agenda for development[5] as well as other relevant United Nations instruments;

7. Emphasizes that the barriers to and restrictions on the transfer of technology to developing countries, including new technology regimes established unilaterally and/or plurilaterally, should be identified and removed while creating incentives, fiscal and otherwise, for the transfer of such technologies; expresses its concern over the fact that the developing countries are increasingly facing obstacles in respect of accessing new technologies, with export restrictions being put in place on various pretexts; and emphasizes that intellectual property rights regimes should not increase the cost of technology transfer to developing countries;

8. Recognizes the importance of cooperation among developing countries in the field of science and technology, building on their complementarities, and that the need to further advance such cooperation, through the establishment and/or strengthening of national technology and information centres in developing countries and their networking on regional, subregional, interregional and global levels to promote technology research, development and dissemination among themselves, further calls for cooperation between universities and research institutions, and urges the international community to support such initiatives through financial and technical assistance;

9. Reiterates the affirmation of the General Assembly, as put forth in paragraph 93 of the annex to its resolution S/19-2 of 28 June 1997, that the creation of centres for the transfer of technology at various levels could greatly contribute to achieving the objective of transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries, and that, for this purpose, cooperation between existing United Nations bodies and mechanisms with a mandate in this field, including technical cooperation among developing countries, economic cooperation among developing countries, the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the regional commissions, should be promoted;

10. Welcomes Economic and Social Council decision 1997/306 of 25 July 1997 in which the Council approved the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Centre for Science and Technology for Development, one of whose items is entitled "Common vision on the future of science and technology for development on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary (in 1999) of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development";

11. Stresses the important role that the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development should play in enhancing endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries, and also stresses that additional measures by the United Nations for purposes of enhancing the ability of the developing countries to address their pressing needs in this sector are a necessity;

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[5] See document A/AC.250/1 (Parts I, II and III), annex.

12. Invites the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to assess their capability to provide assistance and promote cooperation in the area of information and communication technologies, and to suggest areas in which they are best able to assist developing countries in the design and implementation of national strategies on such technologies;

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 95 (a)

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING NET TRANSFER OF RESOURCES BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Global financial flows and their impact on the developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/166 of 16 December 1996 entitled "Global financial integration and strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions" and 50/91 of 20 December 1995 entitled "Global financial integration: challenges and opportunities", as well as Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/43 of 26 July 1996 on strengthening collaboration between the United Nations development system and the Bretton Woods institutions,

Stressing that global financial flows present new challenges and opportunities for the international community and should constitute a very important element of the dialogue between the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions,

Expressing its concern that many developing countries, among them most of the least developed countries, especially those of Africa, have not benefited from the globalization of financial flows and continue to be in great need of capital, especially official development assistance,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Expressing its concern also that a number of developing countries have become more vulnerable, in the course of liberalizing their external economic and financial regimes, to the volatile fluctuations of private capital flows in international financial markets,

Mindful that all countries should continue their efforts to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and that the major industrialized countries, which have significant weight in influencing world economic growth and the international economic environment, have special responsibilities for cooperating with developing countries so as to enhance the developing countries' ability to address and alleviate their major problems in the areas of finance, trade and external indebtedness, in order to rectify imbalances between the developed and the developing countries,

Deeply concerned at the recent fluctuations in the currencies of some developing countries which have had negative impacts on their economic stability, growth, trade and development process, and adverse impacts on other countries,

Recognizing the potential benefits for the world economy of greater freedom of capital movements, but at the same time noting that the capital account liberalization process puts additional stress on the economies that are already striving to adjust to globalization,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on global financial integration: an update;[1]

2. Stresses the urgent need to ensure wider and effective participation of developing countries in the decision-making processes on financial and macroeconomic policy issues of competent international financial institutions;

3. Expresses grave concern that sharp fluctuations in interest rates and exchange rates have the potential to disrupt the international monetary and financial system, thus aggravating the volatility of short-term capital flows;

4. Recognizes that, despite the fact that a number of developing countries have been able to take advantage of the globalization of financial flows, there is a need for the expansion of long-term private capitals flows and for access by developing countries to those flows, and also a need for the international community to facilitate and enhance such flows to low-income countries, especially the least developed countries and those in Africa;

5. Also recognizes the need, on the part of industrialized countries, for policy coherence and coordinated policies that promote a supportive international economic environment conducive to sustained and non-inflationary growth and the adjustments needed to address the imbalances in the world economy, and greater foreign exchange market stability;

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[1] A/52/406.

6. Stresses the need for strengthened international cooperation, including through strengthened regional and multilateral cooperation, to prevent future currency turmoils which negatively affect not only developing countries but the international and financial monetary system;

7. Recognizes the adverse impact of sharp fluctuations among the major international currencies on developing countries, and in this regard calls on the International Monetary Fund to fully exercise its mandates so as to ensure effective surveillance over the macroeconomic policies of the countries involved in the management of these currencies;

8. Also recognizes that an effective International Monetary Fund surveillance mechanism would require, among other elements, the regular and timely provision of economic and financial data from all Fund members, as well as from private investors;

9. Takes note of the work of the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision where for the first time some developing countries were invited to participate in the work of drafting banking standards, and calls for enhanced participation of developing countries in standards-setting within banking institutions;

10. Calls on the International Monetary Fund to ensure a flexible approach in the exercise of its role in promoting capital account liberalization, so as to enable members to adjust the pace and sequencing of the liberalization of their capital account, in the light of their policy, institutional and financial conditions;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to analyse, in close cooperation with the heads of the Bretton Woods institutions and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, current trends in global financial markets and make recommendations in the World Economic and Social Survey, 1998 and the Trade and Development Report, 1998 on ways and means to address the problem of fluctuations in global financial markets, including measures to help economies become more resilient with respect to possible negative effects of currency trading, and to report on the effect of such sharp fluctuations on growth and development, in particular in developing countries;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to report, in cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution.